

REMARKS

Claims 1-13, and 16-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from the admitted prior art in view of Beinhaur et al. The Examiner indicated that Beinhaur et al. discloses tubular risers (46). According to Beinhaur et al. at col. 6, lines 9-13, "Preferably much of intermediate section 16 is embedded within a cylindrical housing portion or flange 46 extending rearwardly from wire face 44 to facilitate eventual process steps and to assure appropriate sealing." (Emphasis added) Claim 1 recites "a plurality of tubular risers mounted to said insulating plug at said first end of said connector shell." Claim 16 similarly recites "a plurality of tubular risers mounted to said insulating plug." As is described in the specification from page 1, line 3, to page 2, line 6, in the prior art in which connector pins were embedded in insulating potting, a conductive layer formed between the potting and the electrical insulation of the connector, providing a path for arcing which burned through the connector shell and allowing fuel to leak. The present invention provides a non-potted open design allowing potential contaminants to escape or to be removed from the electrical connector.

It is respectfully submitted that in Beinhaur et al. the embedding of the intermediate section of the terminal in the cylindrical housing portion or flange 46 corresponds to the prior art embedding of terminals in potting, thus potentially allowing contaminants to accumulate between the cylindrical housing or flange 46 and the dielectric housing 40, since the cylindrical housing or flange 46 of Beinhaur et al. is not disclosed as being hollow or tubular, as is the case in the present invention. It is

respectfully submitted that Beinhaur et al. does not disclose, teach or suggest tubular risers mounted to an insulating plug of a connector shell, as is claimed. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 1-13, and 16-22 are inventive and novel over the admitted prior art and Beinhaur et al., and that the rejection of Claims 1-13, and 16-22 on the grounds of obviousness from the admitted prior art in view of Beinhaur et al. should be withdrawn.

Claims 14, 15 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from the admitted prior art in view of Beinhaur et al. and further in view of Tharman, which was cited as disclosing two layers of insulating tubing. However, it is respectfully submitted that Tharman also does not disclose, teach or suggest tubular risers mounted to an insulating plug of a connector shell, as is claimed. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 14, 15 and 23 are inventive and novel over the admitted prior art and Beinhaur et al., and that the rejection of Claims 14, 15 and 23 on the grounds of obviousness from the admitted prior art in view of Beinhaur et al. and further in view of Tharman should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application should now be in condition for allowance, and an early favorable action in this regard is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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